

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-02 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 HA-05 /101 W

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FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1033

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CU, ET, SO

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI HOSTILITIES: HAVANA UPDATE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED CUBAN PRESS, AS OF MORNING
JANUARY 25, HAS PROVIDED NO COMMENTARY ON JANUARY 22-23
HARAR FIGHTING. ETHIOPIAN VICE-MINISTER DAWIT WOLDE
GHIORGIS IS QUOTED IN ROME, HOWEVER, AS DENYING INVOLVEMENT
OF FOREIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL "ALONGSIDE THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY".

2. GRANMA, JANUARY 25, BEGINS SERIALIZING RAUL VALDES VIVO'S
BOOK ON ETHIOPIA. (VALDES VIVO IS CUBAN CP SECRETARIAT
MEMBER CHARGED WITH RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COMMUNIST AND
RADICAL PARTIES.) ACCORDING TO GRANMA, ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND
COPIES OF BOOK (ON SALE FOR THREE WEEKS) HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOLD.
END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: ROMANIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR
(RADU), JANUARY 25, INDICATED THAT CUBANS HAVE INTEREST
IN MOVING TOWARD ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL SOLUTION EXPEDITIOUSLY
SO AS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE 1979 HAVANA NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT
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WHICH CASTRO REGARDS AS IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION OF CUBAN
PRESTIGE. RADU POINTED OUT THAT CUBA'S QUARRELS WITH SOMALIA,
ZAIRE, AND MOROCCO HAVE ALREADY CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR CUBA
WITHIN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. (COMMENT: CUBAN FIRST VICE-
MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF GENERAL SENEN
CASAS IS QUOTED IN GRANMA, JANUARY 25, AS SAYING THAT CUBAN
MILITARY EFFORTS "HAVE NOT BEEN IMPOSED 'FROM OUTSIDE' AS SOME

IMPERIALIST IDEOLOGISTS WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR TO OTHER PEOPLES OF THE WORLD". DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT ROMANIAN CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL ION COMAN HELD TALKS WITH CASAS AND OTHER CUBAN LEADERS EARLIER THIS MONTH.)

4. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR (SELETSKY), JANUARY 25, SAID THAT MOSCOW IS LOOKING FOR OUTLINES OF POLITICAL SOLUTION TO HORN CRISIS TO FLOW FROM UPCOMING OAU DELIBERATIONS--TALKS IN WHICH "THE US CAN EXPRESS ITS OPINIONS THROUGH CLIENTS SUCH AS SENEGAL". HE SAID THAT MENGISTU, IN MEANTIME, IS PURSUING "OLD AMERICAN TACTIC" OF SEEKING TO ESTABLISH POSITION OF STRENGTH FOR NEGOTIATIONS. SELETSKY CLAIMED THAT MENGISTU HAS ALREADY SHOWN HIS POLITICAL FLEXIBILITY IN EXTENDING FEELERS TO ERITREAN GROUPS REGARDING FUTURE SELF-DETERMINATION. (COMMENT: SELETSKY DID NOT MENTION OGADEN IN THIS CONTEXT. HE SAID THAT SOVIETS CONSIDER ERITREA TO BE CRUCIAL ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM SINCE "REACTIONARY ARABS" ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN PROVIDING SUPPORT. CRUCIALITY OF ERITREA, FROM SOVIET POINT OF VIEW, MAY ALSO CORRESPOND TO CASTRO'S OPINION, EXPRESSED TO CODEL REUSS--SEE HAVANA 10-- THAT LOSS OF ETHIOPIAN ACCESS TO SEA WOULD BE "INTOLERABLE".) SELETSKY POINTED OUT, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, THAT, AS FAR AS SOVIET EMBASSY HAVANA AWARE, JANUARY 18 TASS STATEMENT CALLING FOR "UNCONDITIONAL" AND "IMMEDIATE" WITHDRAWAL OF "SOMALI TROOPS" HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY VAGUE AS TO WHETHER INDIGENOUS SOMALI "LIBERATION FORCES" WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE CONFIDENTIAL

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WITHDRAWN FROM OGADEN.

5. DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE CONTINUE TO MENTION REPORTED CALL-UP OF CUBAN ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE, AND NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR ETHIOPIAN SERVICE. NO ESTIMATE OF EXTENT OF CALL-UP OR ITS PURPOSE IS YET AVAILABLE HOWEVER. (COMMENT: RESERVOIR OF AVAILABLE CUBAN MANPOWER IS SOMEWHAT LIMITED UNTIL MAY BY NEED TO COMPLETE LABOR-INTENSIVE SUGAR AND VEGETABLE HARVESTS.) GLASSMAN

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